

2015 ANNUAL REPORT



HAMILTON COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

To the residents of Hamilton County,

I am pleased to share with you a year-end summary of accomplishments and activities of Hamilton County Emergency Management. Hamilton County Emergency Management works year-round to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from emergency and disasters of every scale.



Hamilton County Emergency Management's mission supports the goal of emergency management: to protect the community by coordinating and integrating all activities necessary to build, sustain, and improve capabilities.

This is accomplished through strong support from Hamilton County Emergency Management staff, elected officials, other county departments, municipalities from across the county, public safety, nonprofits, private companies and volunteers. All of this support takes countless hours to ensure the safety and security of the residents throughout Hamilton County and is a true testament to building a disaster resilient community.

I am proud of the accomplishments of the past year, and appreciate your continued support of Hamilton County Emergency Management. We look forward to continuing to serve you in the coming year.

Erin Rowe
Executive Director

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INTRODUCTION

Hamilton County Emergency Management continues its focus on community preparedness and vulnerability reduction. By engaging the whole community, with help from, the citizens, neighborhoods, public and private entities and responders. Emergency management strives to strengthen and create a more resilient community with the capability to return to normal after a disaster occurs.

Community outreach, training and exercise programs, compliance mechanisms, planning programs and collaboration efforts have helped to better attain our primary mission of mitigating against, preparing for, responding to and recovering from natural and man-made disasters. In 2015, efforts have promoted disaster resilience to reduce vulnerability to hazards, improve the community's ability to cope with disasters, create strategic collaboration, and improve communication and cooperation with others in the community.

Further, these efforts have enhanced life safety, alleviated human suffering and need; preserved property, and disseminated warnings of any disaster or incident endangering public welfare in Hamilton County.

Our Mission:

To provide Hamilton County the support to plan, prepare, mitigate, respond and recover from natural, human caused and accidental hazards

Our Vision:

To maintain a safe and more resilient Hamilton County



EOC ACTIVATION



The Emergency Operations Center is used to coordinate first responders and other parties that serve a major role by allowing them to establish a timely response to a specific incident or disaster. By activating the Emergency Operations Center, agencies throughout the county are able to better communicate with one another and develop a more efficient and coordinated response and recovery effort.

An incident or disaster can never be predicted and fortunately during 2015 the Emergency Operations Center was not activated. Local events were monitored such as 4th of July festivities throughout the county, the Saint Maria Goretti Relic Tour, and the County Fair.

Hamilton County Emergency Management monitors weather, which may impact the county. In the event of potentially severe weather, storm command may be activated to assist in monitoring, establishing contact with respective fire and police departments, county-wide ham radio operators and National Weather Service SKYWARN. This usually happens when the potential for tornados exists; However, the storm team has been utilized for other weather related concerns over the year.



PLANNING EFFORTS

HAMILTON COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT STRATEGIC PLAN

Hamilton County Emergency Management's strategic plan provides a framework to enhance the mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery efforts throughout the county. This plan serves as a tool to implement programs, which reflect the goals and objectives of Hamilton County Emergency Management.

By utilizing this plan, emergency management can coordinate and collaborate with all sectors to create a better-prepared and more resilient community. This plan focuses on community outreach, organizational readiness, all hazards planning, training and exercises, Emergency Operations Center/Incident Management Teams collaboration and grant management and fostering cooperation. Communication between our organizational partners and other public safety agencies is essential for this plan to work. This plan will continue being implemented with a plan revision in 2017.

ALL HAZARDS APPROACH

Hamilton County's hazards base is very dynamic due to shifts in population, business/industrial activity, land use changes, technological advances, and emerging threats, such as terrorism. For this reason, Hamilton County's ability to prepare and respond to this wide range of hazards must be equally dynamic and flexible by keeping the "all hazards", "all risks" approach adopted by the Indiana Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The county has built an effective emergency management system that is able to address the multitude of hazards that are prevalent in our county. Those hazards (natural, technological, and man-made) present a wide variety of challenges to government agencies, communities, businesses, and residents. While some hazards may not impact our lives on a daily basis, the threat is always there. This must be addressed through comprehensive emergency planning and preparedness efforts, not just at the county level, but at all levels of government.



PLANNING EFFORTS

MULTI-HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

The Hamilton County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan focuses on the mitigation phase of the disaster life cycle. This plan identifies natural hazards that impact a community, the actions and activities needed to reduce any losses from those hazards and establishes a coordinated process to implement those plans.

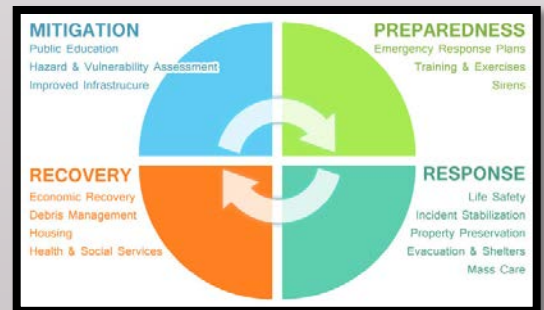
In order to keep this plan up to date, it was revised in February, compliant with the requirement of a five-year update cycle in order to remain eligible for mitigation project grant funds. Goals for the updated plan are to continue to promote disaster resilience, become a focal point of creditable information, and promote whole community hazard reduction and mitigation strategies.

In order to achieve these goals Hamilton County Emergency Management continues to collaborate with homeowners, commercial and industrial property owners, researchers, the public sector and many others.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER PLAN

Through a series of meetings and reviews, Hamilton County Emergency Management has a finalized draft of its Emergency Operations Plan. This plan includes initial response operations, concept of operations and assignment of roles and responsibilities.

The plan was sent to the Emergency Management Advisory Council for their review and comments. The Emergency Management Advisory Council has suggested updates, and those have been made to the plan. Updates are made per after action items mentioned in the after action reports from past exercises and incidents for the 2015 Local Emergency Planning Committee exercise.



PLANNING EFFORTS

Volunteer & Donations Management Plan

Hamilton County Emergency Management's Volunteer & Donations Management Plan establishes a framework by which Hamilton County Emergency Management can coordinate response, relief and recover volunteer resources before, during, and after emergency and non-emergency volunteer activities such as public safety day events. This plan is being revised, and focuses on the use of spontaneous, unaffiliated, volunteers that arrive to help out during an incident as well as the use of affiliated volunteers. This plan also looks at donations management, which after an incident may increase. Planning is necessary to facilitate the influx.

The plan outlines types of donations most likely to be received and those most useful to those individuals impacted. The revision will be finished in 2016.



VOLUNTEERS

Hamilton County Emergency Management recognizes volunteers as essential to the productivity, efficiency, and effectiveness of government. Hamilton County Emergency Management encourages and welcomes individuals to volunteer. Emergency Management Volunteers represent a critical means of extending the resources of county and municipal governments, augmenting police, fire, healthcare, communications, the Emergency Operations Center and other services. Hamilton County Emergency Management and the community are made more resilient and safer by the active participation of our volunteer citizens. Hamilton County Emergency Management accepts and encourages the involvement of volunteers before, during, and after emergency events or incidents and within all appropriate programs and activities.

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT)

CERT volunteers are affiliated with Hamilton County Emergency Management and have contributed approximately 4,200 hours via outreach/public education events, two basic CERT courses, trainings and program development. This year CERT has conducted ten natural hazard table top exercises, nine monthly training meetings and fifteen outreach events. Their purpose is to provide short term help to a disaster site.



RADIO AMATEUR CIVIL EMERGENCY SERVICES (RACES)

Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service volunteers purpose is to provide tactical emergency support radio communications to federal, state and local governments in time of emergency and to supplement, augment or replace radio communications wherever and whenever needed. They will be activated only when there is a threat to safety of life, preservation of property, alleviation of human suffering and need, and dissemination of warnings of any disaster or other incident endangering the public welfare that make it necessary for response.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Hamilton County Emergency Management pursues community involvement and outreach in many ways. We believe this involvement will promote a strong sense of community and county pride, which in turn will create a culture of preparedness.

Programs of involvement include: Emergency Management Smartphone App, social media, Hamilton County Fair, public safety day, presentations to groups, citizen preparedness education, volunteer management, and safe school commission.

COUNTY FAIR

Hamilton County Emergency Management attended its 21st county fair by providing a display of equipment where citizens could visit and receive information. Also provided were drawings for weather radios, preparedness handouts, and many other novelty items. We estimate 5,000 citizens visited the Hamilton County Emergency Management display.

PUBLIC SAFETY DAY

Hamilton County Emergency Management participated in a number of public safety events throughout the year including Fishers, Carmel and the Home Depot public safety days. Hamilton County Emergency Management provided several pieces of equipment at the various public safety days. During the day, Hamilton County Emergency Management staff and volunteers provided demonstrations of equipment as well as promoting our message of preparedness to citizens.

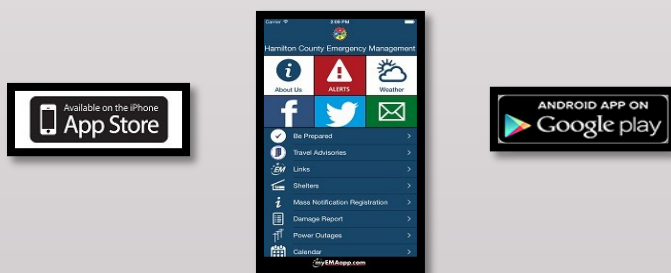


COMMUNITY OUTREACH

EMA Smartphone App

This is a new tool that Hamilton County has started using this past year. This tool is mainly used for public outreach notifications by a smartphone application. This was all possible when Hamilton County received a grant which helped pay for this application. This app has several features that allow the user to receive instant information regarding disasters or alerts. The app can be used for the following:

- ***Take pictures of damaged property and send pictures back directly to EMA along with the location of the damage. This in turn helps us when forming damage assessment teams that go out after the incident.***
- ***Identifies any open shelters in the area***
- ***Find out if Hamilton County is under any kind of travel advisory***
- ***Access the Duke Energy website for up-to-date power outage reports***
- ***Access local forecasts along with tips for preparedness in the event of a disaster***



Social Media



Another source of information for the public is the Hamilton County Emergency Management Facebook page. This informational source is being viewed by 2,470 individuals. This website is also capable of allowing the viewer to see notifications and warnings as well as viewing recent events that may take place around them. Hamilton County Emergency Management also has a Twitter account, which allows viewers to receive updates and notifications of events that are taking place in the county. The Hamilton County website has a list of events, as well as information on planning and preparedness. The more places the public can receive news about their community the better prepared the community will be as a whole.

TRAINING AND EXERCISE

2015 LEPC FUNCTIONAL EXERCISE

The objective of this exercise was to test the operational response to an extremely hazardous chemical release through the activation, staffing, and management of the Emergency Operations Center.

The exercise tested the Hamilton County Local Emergency Planning Committee plan, the Hamilton County Comprehensive Emergency Management plan and the Hamilton County Emergency Operations Plan through county, state, private sector and non-profit organizations, as well as public safety agencies in the county.



There were fourteen different agencies ranging from police and fire to communications and hospital officials participating in this year's exercise. Members of CERT, RACES and the American Red Cross also participated in the exercise.



Planning has already begun for the 2016 Local Emergency Planning Committee Full Scale exercise. This exercise will take place at the training facility in Hamilton County and will involve all members of the Local Emergency Planning Committee as well as public safety from around the county.

TRAINING

Hamilton County Emergency Management staff participated in thirteen trainings this past year as well as assisted in bringing several trainings to the county.



GRANTS

During 2015 Hamilton County Emergency Management received both state and federal grants. The total grant funds received was \$480,615.97. Hamilton County Emergency Management has acquired grant funding for the 2016 calendar year and will continue to seek additional grant opportunities.

GRANT LIFECYCLE	
PRE-AWARD REVIEW PHASE	Funding opportunity announcement & application
PHASE AWARD PHASE	Award decisions & notifications
POST AWARD PHASE	Implementation, reporting & closeout

STATE HOMELAND SECURITY PROGRAM GRANT (SHSP)

Hamilton County was awarded three SHSP grants this year. The total SHSP grant funds received in 2015 was \$85,000. The funds have been used to strengthen cyber security, provided a smartphone application that will provide the public weather warnings and emergency alerts, and enhanced emergency planning among the District 5 counties.

HAZARDOUS MATERIAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLAN GRANT (HMEP)

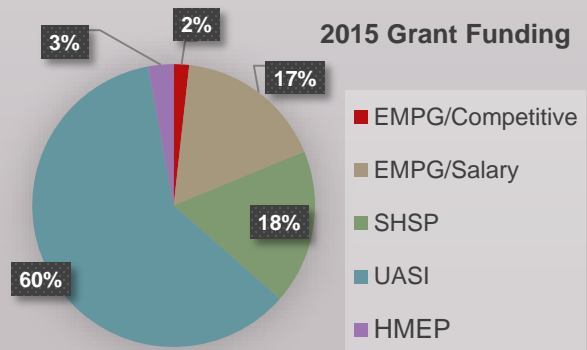
Hamilton County was awarded \$14,000 in 2015. The funds aided in a county-wide pre-planning project involving industrial facilities that manufacture or store extremely hazardous substances and included transportation route data.

URBAN AREAS SECURITY INITIATIVES GRANT (UASI)

Hamilton County used UASI funding this year in five categories. This funding assisted the county with Emergency Operations Center enhancements, intelligence and information sharing, development or enhancement of response/recovery plans, health/medical equipment and training for first responders. The total UASI grant funds received in 2015 was \$291,388.99.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANT (EMPG)

Hamilton County received \$81,741.69 in funding to financially support salaries for specific positions within the Emergency Management department in 2015. The Emergency Management department received \$8,485.29. This funding is considered “bonus” grant funding for emergency management personnel, equipment, training, travel etc.



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

2015 Achievements

2015 Achievements

Community Outreach:

- Preparedness and Emergency Management Mission Presentations to three home owner associations and two local churches.
- Provided preparedness information to 4H attendees; 500 people registered for a weather alert radio.
- Attended 3 public safety days, (Fishers, Carmel & Home Depot)
- Helped local Trustees and Food Pantry's in the planning of creating disaster activation plans.
- Preparedness presentation for Noblesville Lions Club

Planning:

- Updated or created EOC Operations plan
- EOC documentation
- Volunteer and Donation's management plan
- Volunteer Code of Conduct
- Situational Awareness GIS map project.

Training & Conferences:

- IAEM Conference
- EMAI conference
- HSEEP training
- Indiana Water Forum
- National Traffic Incident Management Responder
- ICS 300 and 400 class
- Instructed ICS 300 and 400 refresher course
- Sports Event Risk Management course
- NWS Storm Spotter Training
- Instructed WebEOC refresher course and Basic EOC operations course
- LEPC Functional Exercise
- Staging Manager
- Indiana Radiological and Nuclear Detection Program Workshop
- RTIP course.

Intern Projects:

- Annual report
- FEMA resource typing with rates identified
- Created operation manuals for EMA inventory

Other: achievements:

- Created Emergency Management Mission and Vision Statements
- September 2015 hired full time Emergency Management Coordinator
- Volunteer coordination
- Successful handling of influx of volunteers
- Continued management of grant funding

Successful deployment of Emergency Management resources:

- Cicero 4th of July activities
- Boon County plan crash
- Indiana Taskforce One Night K9 Training
- Saint Maria Goretti Relic Tour
- Local 4416 fund raiser in downtown Noblesville
- Noblesville Public Safety building to provide power during a planned power outage

Successful deployment of Emergency Management resources:

- Carmel Fire Station 41 to provide power to building during a planned power
- Main communication tower to provide power due to a generator failure
- Hamilton Heights High School to provide power to building during a planned power outage

FUTURE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Our team at Hamilton County Emergency Management continues to prepare for incidents diligently.

Hamilton County Emergency Management's overarching goal is to ensure that all communities are prepared for a potential disaster. By developing plans and conducting training and exercises, Hamilton County can continue to build resilience before, during, and after any natural or man-made disaster.

This begins with updating and creating plans to assist the Emergency Operations Center and local jurisdictions to respond and operate more efficiently and effectively before, during and after an incident has occurred.

As always, Hamilton County Emergency Management will continue to prepare its residents in order to increase the counties resilience.

Future Trends to track in Emergency Management

1. Technology will play an increasing roll.
2. The retirement of the baby boom generation will allow for new people, new ideas, and a whole new style/background in emergency managers.
3. Climate variability will bring a new host of challenges/hazards.
4. The cost of disasters will continue to grow, constraining budgets at all levels of government and the private sector.
5. The pace of change, driven in part by technology, will accelerate.

Thank you for your continued support of the Emergency Management program



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